

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 4 and 16 are amended herein.

Claims 11-14 are "objected to" and claims 1-10, 15 and 16 are rejected.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-16 are currently pending and under consideration in the present application.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3 UNDER 35 U.S.C § 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY RAGLAND ET AL. (USP# 6,104,004)

The present invention as recited in claim 1, relates to a cooking apparatus, which comprises "a plurality of reflecting members provided at predetermined positions around a rear surface of the heating unit, the reflecting members installed to be spaced apart from each other by a predetermined gap to provide an air layer between the reflecting members."

Ragland teaches an electric barbecue grill having a grill cooking surface 3, an electric heating element 4, multi-layer metal foil inserts 8 and 9 shaped and positioned inside a grill housing to provide reflection of the radiated heat from the heating element 4. Ragland teaches other metal inserts such as a lower insert member 16, an upper insert member 17, and a cover portion 32, which provides the desired reflection and distribution of radiated heat. In item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the multi-layer metal foil inserts 8 and 9, the lower insert member 16, the upper insert member 17, and the cover portion 32 of Ragland is the same as the plurality of reflecting members as recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

However, the inserts (8, 9, 16, 17) and the cover portion 32 of Ragland are not provided at predetermined positions around a rear surface of the heating element 4. The barbecue grill of Ragland is configured such that none of the inserts (8, 9, 16, 17) and the cover portion 32 is positioned in a rear surface of the heating element 4. According to the configuration of the barbecue grill of Ragland (see FIGS. 1 and 3), for example, the inserts (8, 9, 16, 17) and the cover portion 32 are positioned above, below, and on the side of the heating element 4. Ragland does not define a rear portion of the heating element 4. It is further submitted that none of the inserts (8, 9, 16, 17) and the cover portion 32 is installed to be spaced apart from each other by a predetermined gap to provide an air layer therebetween.

Ragland does not teach the features recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1. For at least the reason that claim 1 distinguishes over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 3 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4-5, 7-8, 15 AND 16 UNDER 35 U.S.C § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER RAGLAND ET AL. IN VIEW OF GB 228611 AND HUCK (USP# 3,154,004)

Similar to claim 1, claim 4 (as amended herein) recites, "a plurality of reflecting members provided at predetermined positions around a rear surface of the heating units, the reflecting members installed to be spaced apart from each other by a predetermined gap to provide an air layer between the reflecting members" and claim 16 recites, "first, second, and third reflecting members provided at predetermined positions around a rear surface of the heating units."

It is submitted that claims 4 and 16 also distinguish over the teachings of Ragland.

Dependent claims 5, 7, 8 and 15 (depending, either directly or indirectly, from claim 4) recite patentably distinguishing features of their own, and, further, are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from independent claim 4. For example, in contrast to Ragland, GB 228611, and Huck, dependent claim 5 provides, "wherein the thermal heat generated by the heating units is repeatedly reflected by the reflecting members and limitedly transmitted to a portion of the heating units due to a heating insulating effect of the air layer provided between the reflecting members." Ragland, GB 228611, and Huck are silent regarding the features recited in claim 5.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIM 6 UNDER 35 U.S.C § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER RAGLAND ET AL. IN VIEW OF GB-228611 AND HUCK AS APPLIED TO CLAIM 4 ABOVE AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF KR-200216089

The comments in section III above, apply here because claim 6 depends from claim 4. For at least the reason that claim 4 distinguishes over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 also distinguishes over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 9 AND 10 UNDER 35 U.S.C § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER RAGLAND ET AL. IN VIEW OF GB-2286111 AND HUCK AS APPLIED TO CLAIM 4 ABOVE AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF HENNICK (USP# 5,189,945)

The comments in section III above, apply here because claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 4. For at least the reason that claim 4 distinguishes over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9 and 10 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 3-18-05

By: Derrick L. Fields
Derrick L. Fields
Registration No. 50,133

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501